

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SACRAMENTO RIVER CONSERVATION AREA
MINUTES**

November 2, 2000
6:30 p.m.

Board of Supervisors' Chambers
Willows, Ca.

Chair Denny Bungarz called the meeting of the Sacramento River Conservation Area to order at 6:35 p.m. at the above location. It was determined that there was a quorum of (11) voting members present.

County	Public Interest	Landowner	Agency
Butte	Jane Dolan	Shirley Lewis	
Colusa	Bill Waite(David Womble)	Ben Carter	
Glenn	Denny Bungarz	(Jason Larrabee)	
Shasta	Glenn Hawes	(Dan Gover)	
Sutter	(Dick Akin)	Russell Young	
Tehama	Bill Borror	Curt Martin (Brendon Flynn)	
Yolo	(Lynnell Pollack)	Peter Sparr (Marc Faye)	
Resources Agency			Mel Dodgin
Cal DWR			Dwight Russell
Cal DFG			Diana Jacobs
State Reclamation Board			Pete Rabbon
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation			Laura Allen
USF&WS			Jim McKevitt
US COE			(Mark Charlton)

Names listed in parentheses represent absences

Also present, Coordinator Burt Bundy plus an estimated audience of 25 interested persons.

Resources Agency	Tim Ramirez
Cal DWR	Stacy Cepello

1. CLOSED SESSION:

Matter: Adjourn to Closed Session regarding Personnel Matters to consider the appointment of the Manager of the Sacramento River Conservation Area, pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.

Proceedings: After Closed Session the Chairman announced the Sacramento River Conservation Area has selected Burt Bundy for the Manager position.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Following the announcement of his selection as Manager, Burt Bundy expressed his thanks to the Board for their support in the past and continuing support as they work to get information about the Sacramento River Conservation Area out to as many people as possible. One of his first tasks as Manager will be putting together a brochure that would help to explain just what the organization is and does. He asked for assistance from both the Board and the audience to help in this endeavor.

3. MINUTES: Question was presented to the Board as to how detailed the minutes should be. Jim McKevitt suggested that whenever a decision is being made, or there is a discussion of policy, they should be as detailed as possible. Technical presentations do not need to be as detailed. Corrections to the September 28 minutes will be indicated in *italics* for approval at the December, 2000 Board meeting and will be mailed prior to the meeting. The minutes were corrected as follows:

From Jim McKevitt:

Page 3, PILT PRESENTATION: The *Refuge Revenue Sharing Act applies to fee acquisitions only. It does not apply to conservation easements where title does not change hands.*

Payments are based on *income from* refuge receipts and *Congressional appropriations are made*

Of particular note, however, is that assessed value is updated every five years, resulting in payments to counties that are often more than they would have received if the property had not been acquired by the FW&S.

From Diana Jacobs:

Page 3, PILT PRESENTATION: ...for counties to *receive the PILT. Wildlife management areas generally will have payments while ecological reserves will not.*

Page 4, #8: Diana Jacobs noted that a *DFG staff person* is being solicited to *coordinate work ...*

From Pete Rabbon:

Page 4 #8: Comprehensive Study *will be due to start dealing with the problems.*

4. MANAGER'S REPORT:

Grant Activity - Burt Bundy explained that the first grant was completed 10/15/00 and is in the process of being closed out, hopefully, within the next 30 days. This was a 2 year process under CALFED in place to establish the organization, its' by-laws and MOA. Appreciation was expressed to DWR for the support it has given to the organization during this time. The second grant is funded through CVPIA Anadromous Fish Restoration Program and has the first year funding in place with the second and third going through the process. This grant, like the first, is administered by CSU Research Foundation; however, the Board sets policy.

Sub-Reach Planning - Hamilton City has been the subject of several meetings and in conversation with the Comp Study people, it is still being considered as an "Initial Project" in the first phase of the Study. Glenn County will be doing maintenance work on the "J" levee to help with preparedness in case of flooding – need to have emergency materials, plans and personnel available. Chairman Bungarz noted they are starting to see some interest from some of the legislators, i.e. Assemblyman Dick Dickerson.

Woodson Bridge is not moving forward. Need to find a niche between long term and emergency solutions.

The DWR and BLM have received CALFED funding for a resources inventory for the Bloody Island sub-reach. The SRCA will coordinate public input into the study.

Site-Specific Activities –River Mile 207 needs to have other options to weigh besides rocking which would be extremely costly. Unique to this location is that it borders on three counties, Butte, Glenn and Tehama.

Burt also noted a meeting to be held on Friday, 11/03 in Sutter County with the Reclamation Board, RD1500 and others to look at property located in the floodway to look at options for habitat restoration. This is a preliminary hearing and he will keep the Board posted if there is further action.

Les Heringer, Manager of the M&T Ranch reported on a meeting he had recently with the City of Chico and several other affected parties to discuss the gravel bar intrusion near the site of their pumps and the City of Chico wastewater outfall. These pumps were moved to what was thought to be a stable part of the river. The pumping plant serves not only the M&T Ranch but also the Llano Seco Ranch and the Fish & Game refuge at the Llano Seco Ranch as well. Over the past four years the gravel bar has grown 1100' to the south and 450' to the west and a recent inspection by a diver of the screens and Chico diffusers showed that 2 of the 6 diffusers are now covered. Les was asked what his expectations were of the Board and he indicated that because there is real concern that these could be rendered useless if a short term "fix" is not enacted, he would like to see full support from the Board such as streamlining the permit process.

Dan Keppen was introduced and noted this may be an opportunity to obtain funding from CALFED's reserve fund. He suggested that a letter be drafted to Patrick Wright asking for the opportunity to present this case to a sub-committee at the Ecosystem Round Table and, as a backup, to get it set up in the state budget.

Jim McKeivitt commented he felt there was a need for a good geomorphologist to determine potential impacts.

Dan said there may be an opportunity through TNC to refine modeling. He suggested a request for funding to (1) Assess situation (2) Identify appropriate lead agency. (3) Identify process to come up with solution and (4) fund it.

Chairman Bungarz suggested staff develop a letter in support of the M&T/Llano Seco pumps and Chico Outfall, asking for both short and long terms solutions. A draft of the letter to be reviewed by the Board and appropriate agencies . Glenn Hawes moved, seconded by Jane Dolan to draft the letter. Motion

passed by unanimous vote of the Board. This issue was determined to be consistent with the objectives of the Sacramento River Conservation Area.

Les Heringer was asked about time frame and he indicated would like to see something happen within a 6 month window.

Tim Ramirez, Resources Agency and liaison to the Round Table, indicated that the CALFED reserve fund is 5% of what is allocated annually. He felt that a letter like this one would carry a great deal of weight showing the support and cooperation of so many agencies.

John Merz stated that there is a need for 2 lead agencies, both state and federal. He spoke to a member of the Comp Study and they felt in 3-4 months they will have sub-reach hydrology down and this should be linked – that geomorphology had already been done and they should be given a chance to do their job.

Pete Rabbon asked if the Sacramento River Conservation Area would be the lead group through the process as it has such varied representation – would it be safe to assume that it would be the point of contact?

Diana Jacobs agreed that there should be state and federal lead agencies for environmental permitting process and sees the role of Sacramento River Conservation Area as coordinator/facilitator.

John Merz stated the Sacramento River Preservation Trust has concerns about cost share – not only state and federal but local as well.

5. TAC REPORT: Dan Keppen reported on the Inner River Zone – the Family Water Alliance would like a public meeting at Colusa Industrial Park possibly late November or early December. See it as a public workshop, input will be taken back to TAC meeting. Chair Bungarz asked if Dan and Burt can set a date at next TAC meeting. Burt expressed concern about being able to work in time frame of late November or early December because of the numbers that need to be notified.

Hard Point Discussion - To date have not received list of Hard Points from all counties. Burt Bundy mentioned that he had asked for Hard Points but should have asked for a list of infrastructures as have not established definition of hard points – noted that the COE is identifying hard points in the Comp Study and should share lists. A question was asked about the availability of a list of landowners in the conservation area in the 7 counties. Burt stated that there is but because ownership is in estates, trusts, etc. it is difficult to know the contact person. Will notify all landowners in the reach involved.

Diana Jacobs recommended placing small ad in the local paper.

Tom Evans stated the FWA will publicize the meeting in advance

Burt Bundy said there are also 35 media contacts who currently receive notices of meetings

6. HANDBOOK AMENDMENT PROCESS - Copies of the handbook amendment proposal were included in the packets because of a request to look at the process. Chairman Bungarz referred to item #3 which addressed the questions. He explained that proposals can be reviewed as often as need be – not restricted to annual basis. They must be reviewed *at least* once a year. He explained that changes can be submitted anytime, in writing, and they will be placed on the agenda. Publishing the handbooks is extremely expensive and that was the reason for limiting the publishing to an annual basis.
7. COUNTY VETO REQUEST, FWA – Moved to next meeting.
8. PRESENTATION BY DWR FLOOD MANAGEMENT STAFF ON THE ROLES OF STATE, FEDERAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS DURING TIMES OF FLOODING: Pete Rabbon introduced Jim Bailey of the Department of Water Resources/Flood Center. Jim gave an overview of the local, state and federal agencies involved in flood control – their relationships and responsibilities. He noted that California has more levees and dams (1500) than any other state. Statewide the Department of Water Resources has the most responsibility – has a team of inspectors who check the levees and 1200 dams every year. There is an internet service, the California Data Exchange Center, and a toll free number for river forecasts (800-952-5530). An invitation was extended to visit the Center for a tour. Jim entertained questions from the Board and audience.
9. AGENCY UPDATES: Ramon Vega from the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge reported on several action items:

- a. March 16, 2001 will be start date for Comprehensive Conservation Plan. Will be a guide for next 15 years. Will be doing public scoping beginning early spring, currently putting a planning team together. Should be 4 years before plan is complete.
 - b. Notification to public on 11/10/00 – Packer Lake purchased in the Princeton area – trying to open for public fishing. Have had very good public input and hope to implement by March.
 - c. Environmental Assessment for Sacramento River Wildlife Refuge is an environmental document that will look at restoration effects in the refuge in 5-10 year blocks. That document should go out for a 30 day public review after the first of the year then back for final comment period.
 - d. La Barranca feasibility study River Mile 240-242. This is a floodplain restoration project. It had a private levee and mining operation with gravel pits and have found some entrapment issues. Applied for AFRP grant of \$52,000.00 to get to implementation. Process has started and hope to have document done by early summer.
 - e. PCG/P pumping station is facing same issues with pumping plant as the M&T. They are looking at partnership effort to try to resolve channel containment as well as restoration efforts on 500 acres. Have applied for CALFED grant twice without success – will submit again.
- Ramon was asked to keep the Board posted as things proceed and suggestion was made to bring issues before the next TAC meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT : Diana Jacobs stated that Al Wright has been appointed Executive Director of The Wildlife Conservation Board. Chairman Bungarz suggested that a letter be written to him to congratulate him. Also noted was the retirement of John Schmidt.

Tom Evans of the Family Water Alliance asked the Board to place on the agenda and act on 6 concerns of the FWA. It was determined that all of the issues noted had been addressed by the Board by either assigning them to the Board or the TAC.

Next meeting: TAC – Thursday, November 16, 2000, Willows City Hall – 10:00 a.m.

Board meeting: Thursday, December 14, 2000, Willows City Hall – 4:00 p.m.

Board Meeting: Thursday, January 18, 2000, Chico Enloe Center – 4:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Pat Brown,

Recording Secretary